

BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE | NOVEMBER 2020  
BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION

## Dear BTC Colleagues:

Typically, Thanksgiving is a time to gather with family, friends and other loved ones. For many, the season's joys are bittersweet, and in this year of a pandemic amongst other regional, state and national events, this time of year may be more challenging for a greater number of us.

This holiday season, public health experts are urging all of us to celebrate only with the people with whom we currently live. **If you decide to host a Thanksgiving celebration, public health experts are asking that you celebrate outdoors, limit the guest list to no more than five people outside your household, and keep social interactions as short as possible.** The [Department of Health's Safe Gatherings](#) webpage offers helpful ideas on ways to celebrate safely and how to have conversations with friends and family about social events.



On Friday, November 13, Governor Inslee issued the [Washington State travel Advisory](#) on Friday, November 13 which urges people arriving from other states or countries to self-quarantine for 14 days after arrival, and limit their interactions to their immediate household.

On Sunday, November 15, the governor issued [COVID-19 Guidance](#) effective through December 14, to mitigate rapidly increasing COVID infection rates.

We know this can be a stressful time of year, and additionally so with a pandemic. If you are feeling sad, lonely or anxious, please reach out for counseling and referral support through our Employee Assistance Program (EAP): Leslie Finch, MS, LMFT, HPN EAP Manager, Phone: 360-788-6565, Toll-free: 800-244-6142 or HPN E-Mail: [hpn-eap@peacehealth.org](mailto:hpn-eap@peacehealth.org)

Many of our students are also under tremendous stress. Please encourage your students to seek support through BTC's Counseling office. Students can schedule appointments, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., including same-day appointments when available. You can refer students for a counseling appointment by calling Brijean/scheduler at 360.752.8345 or emailing [counseling@btc.edu](mailto:counseling@btc.edu).

I encourage all of you to take the time to recognize the continued good that you are doing here at BTC. Always remember that your influence, words, and actions are a vital stepping stone towards someone's efforts to better themselves. Your demeanor, patience, kind words, expertise, and willingness to help might just be that life changing instant for someone.

Thank you for being so resilient and caring during these disruptive times.

We wish you and your loved ones a happy and healthy holiday season.

*Kimberly Peay*

## TRIO! (FOLLOW UP ON LAST MONTH'S EVENT)

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This year, BTC celebrated First-Generation Student Week virtually! Activities and information included a week's worth of themed Canvas content, three live and recorded events via Zoom, awareness communications to employees and students, social media posts, and a scholarship competition. Thank you to ASBTC for sponsoring the event and to the BTC Foundation for sponsoring three student scholarships!

After engaging in activities in the public Canvas course, participants were encouraged to fill out a survey to reflect on their own experiences as first-generation college students. View anonymous student and employee reflective responses on the [First-Generation Student Celebration public Canvas course page](#). Forty-five students submitted over 120 reflections throughout the week.

Our keynote speaker was Dr. Lexi Tom, a member of the Lummi Nation who graduated from Northwest Indian College in 2007 and Western Washington University in 2011. She gave an inspiring speech about her own college journey that included valuable lessons for employees and students. [You can watch the recording here](#).

Fourteen first-generation college students applied for a \$500 scholarship offered during this event with the Foundation generously awarding three Winter quarter scholarships. Ten additional students also received prizes for their participation throughout the week.

One student said that: *"I appreciated that this event points out the challenges many of us face attending college, and the realization of how hard it is for many us. I really appreciate how you make us a priority."*

## THE FOUNDATION

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The BTC Foundation recently received a generous \$25,000 contribution from Brooks Manufacturing to support student scholarships.

Brooks Manufacturing, which manufactures cross arms and transmission framing components in Bellingham for nationwide use, has been owned and operated by the Brooks family since 1935.

The company established an endowed scholarship at BTC in 2011 that annually supports students in high-cost programs at the college, including Dental Hygiene, Diesel Technology, Automotive Technology, Automotive Collision Repair Technology, Culinary Arts and Welding & Fabricating Technology. This recent contribution will be added to the already-established endowment and will increase the positive impact the scholarships will have on the lives of the students at BTC.

*"From my experience serving as a member of the BTC Foundation Board of Directors, I know that scholarships can make a tangible difference in the lives of BTC's students," Brooks Manufacturing President Shannon Terrell said. "Every time a student accepts a scholarship, the gratitude, relief and excitement they express is inspiring and humbling. They want to create a better life for themselves and their families, and Brooks is proud to provide the support to help them make that happen."*

## STUDENT FINANCIAL RESOURCES RAMPS UP SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

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The Workforce Funding team within Student Financial Resources will be implementing outreach efforts to expand access to the Basic Food Employment and Training (BFET) program. These efforts will encourage current BTC students who may be eligible for BFET but are not currently participating.

BFET provides employment preparation support for Basic Food (SNAP) recipients who are not participating in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). BFET helps eligible students access education that leads to gainful employment.

Students that participate in BFET may receive the following forms of support:

- Financial assistance with college-related expenses
- Child care subsidy
- Continued Basic Food Benefits while enrolled in school
- Assistance with books for general education and prerequisite classes

In addition to outreach efforts, SFR staff are preparing for an expansion of BFET-eligible programs. By providing students with more financial support, Workforce Funding employees can help increase BTC's retention and graduation rates.

## STUDENT LIFE & ASBTC

ASBTC has changed their Virtual Assistance Lobby to a "Lunch Bunch" drop in. Lunch Bunch will be available 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Lunch Bunch is a way to socialize during social distancing, listen to music, chat with ASB Executive, make friends, and build community.

ASBTC Executives Luke Olson, President; Kristina Daeley, Director of Legislation; and Amy Redfern, Director of Administrative Affairs participated in the virtual Whatcom Literacy Council Trivia Bee recently.

Our ASBTC Team did a great job, and placed in third place out of 24 teams, that included lawyers, trivia buffs, and librarians. KAFE Radio host Scotty VanDryver and Greatest of All Time Jeopardy! winner Ken Jennings were hosts of this fun and lively FUNdraising event supporting our wonderful neighbors, Whatcom Literacy Council. Thank you to Katherine Freimund and all the staff at the WLC for putting on this incredible event!

WHATCOM Trivia Bee Round 5 🏆  
Answer correctly faster to earn more points!

3 Team Rank **P66 "Highly Refined" won!** 3 Teams

Winning Team Rankings

Rank	Teams	Average Points
1	P66 "Highly Refined"	335
2	Hazardous Guess	306
3	Bellingham Technical College Nursing & Welding & Trades, Oh My!	283

Way to go! Top performing teams listed above.



## INSTRUCTION

A Zoom picture of math faculty checking in with their Dean and Program Office Coordinator this quarter. These types of meetings are happening all over campus as the work of educating our students continues.



– Picture courtesy of Anita Peng

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Taking the stage for this month's employee spotlight is **Joel Hoines, a Hatchery Operations Specialist who is a hearty team member of BTC's Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences program.**

**Q: What's your title here at BTC? Now and in the future?**

A: My title is Hatchery Operations Specialist. My plan for the future is to remain here as I absolutely love my job with BTC and working with the instructors and students. Best job ever – in my opinion!

**Q: What do you like to do for fun outside the office? Any hobbies?**

A: For fun outside the office I love to fish the local lakes for Trout and Kokanee from my fishing kayak as well as hiking.

**Q: Any fun or funny facts that folks might not know about you?**

A: Not really fun or funny facts but not only am I an employee but I am also a graduate of the Fisheries program. It was a surreal experience going from being a student to actually working here.

**Q: Any pets or pet plans?**

A: I have two cats, one is 17 years old and we just added a new kitten about 2 months ago. No plans for any more pets at this point. I think our 17 year old might disown us if we bring another one into the house. She wasn't pleased about the kitten!

**Q: If you could bring one food, book, and movie to a desert island, what would you choose?**

A: If I could bring one food it would probably have to be pizza as it never gets old, and a book? What's that? Lol I don't know as it's been a long time since I have sat down and actually read one. I love history stuff so it would probably be something along those lines. For a movie, probably something to take me away from the real world and transport me someplace with a little adventure like Lord of the Rings.

**Q: Feel free to add any other short but sweet items that I didn't ask!**

A: My wife and I have two kids, both of whom are grown up.

I am a US Army Veteran (1997 – 2001) and was deployed to Bosnia for Operation Joint Forge. My job was to provide encrypted radio communications to front line troops. My mother and father also served, my father in the US Army and my mother in the WAC (Women's Army Corp).

I was born and raised in Mt. Vernon, went to Mt. Vernon High School, lived in Texas for the 4 years I was in the Army and when I returned to Washington from the Army I moved to Whatcom county/Sudden Valley and have lived here ever since. Best place to live in the country.



### RUMOR OF THE MONTH

HR had to write up two rogue employees who were constantly roaming around and refusing to respect cubicle boundaries.

Not really, but Melisa Nelson does have two office mates that refuse to stay put!

